

Abel Nicholson House  
Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-305

HANCOCKS BRIDGE VICINITY

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3-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A. I. A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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3.

Abel Nicholson House  
Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey

Owners: Howard Williamson, Hancock's Bridge  
William Shough, Alloway

Date of Erection: 1722 for early section  
1859 for later section

Architect:

Builder: Abel Nicholson

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick  
blue glazed headers in  
the older section

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch on both  
sections with dormers  
on later section

Historical Data:

One of the old Friends records contains  
the following statement:

"Samuel Nicholson liveinge at Drifton in the  
County of Notingham in Old England, And from  
thence removed or transported himself with

his wife and Children to America in the Shipp called the Griffin of London, Robert Griffin being master who all Arrived in Delaware River in the province of West new jersey the 23 day of the ninth month, 1675, and soe to the place now called new Salem where they inhabite".

Abel Nicholson, the builder of the house, was the youngest son of Samuel Nicholson. The house was built according to the date in the east elevation in 1722. This east elevation is unique in that it is one of the few examples of criss-cross glazed brick work; the design is unusual. In the east wall is to be seen evidences of two small windows which have been bricked-up. Originally, there was a penthouse roof on the front of the older section that has since been removed.

In the two hundred and fourteen years of its history many families have lived in the house. Many names prominent in Salem such as Nicholson, Casper, Stretcher, Wiley, and Nelson have been associated with the house.

Bibliography:

Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1924

"Colonial Roof Trees" and "Candle Ends"  
Salem, Salem County Historical Society, 1934

Walter E. Pull  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

no 7/25/59